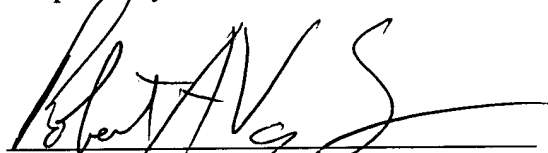


REMARKS

In the Office Action, election of the claims of Group I (claims 1, 5 and 39-42) or Group II (claims 26, 29 and 31-34) was required. Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I (claims 1, 5 and 39-42) for prosecution in the present application. The claims of Group II (claims 26, 29 and 31-34) have been canceled without prejudice. Furthermore, new claims 43-47 have been added and are fully supported in the specification and figures (see, for example, Figures 3A-4D and 22A-32B and the associated description). No new matter has been added.

The pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert A. Van Someren
Reg. No. 36,038

Date: October 21, 2004

PO Box 2107
Cypress, TX 77410-2107
Voice: (281) 373-4369